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Bible Passage of the Month

Luke 2:5-7

“He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

As we look towards celebrating the birth of Christ, let us not forget what this season really is about. It isn't hard for the real meaning to be overlooked in the hustle and bustle of the season. Let us reflect on some of the hymns that so nicely remind us where our focus should be.

What Child Is This, chorus only

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
This, this is Christ the King, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

O Holy Night, verse 1

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Savior's birth: Long lay the world in sin and error pinning. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn: Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Silent Night! Holy Night!, verse 1

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Go, Tell it on the Mountain, chorus only

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

May you and your family enjoy this wonderful holiday season. And let us remember why we truly celebrate.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Communion

We will be celebrating communion on Sunday, December 3.

Family Celebration

The Annual Congregational Meeting (Family Celebration) will take place on Monday, December 4. We will begin with a catered meal at 6:00 p.m. Childcare will be available following the meal. Please RSVP for the dinner so we have an accurate count and if you need childcare. We will then have a time of worship and celebrations after which you will have the opportunity to approve the proposed 2024 general budget and vote on nominees for Elder and Deacon. Anyone may attend the Family Celebration. Only communicant members (age 18 and older) of Coopersville Reformed Church are eligible to vote.

Combined Service

We will have a combined service on Sunday, December 24, at 10:00 a.m. This will be a great way to start off your Christmas Eve Day.

Christmas Eve Services

Join us for candle lite Christmas Eve Services on December 22 at 7:00 p.m. and December 24 at 5:00 p.m. You won't want to miss this special evening.

Women's Quilting Group

The Women's Quilting Group was pleased to present a quilt to the Schipper's family for their recent benefit. We meet the second Friday of the month from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. Come and go as your schedule permits to sew, knit, and crochet for missions.

S.A.L.T. Events

On Friday, December 8, Christmas concert and dinner at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds. Friday, December 29, will be our annual Christmas party in the Activity Center. Join us at 12:00 p.m. for a catered meal (cost by donation). Bring a white elephant gift. Sign up in the Library.

ChristAid International

If you sponsor a grandma or student through ChristAid International and would like them to receive a picture of you, give a 4x6 size or smaller photograph (unframed) to Carol Riemersma or put in her family mailbox in the lobby. Be sure to print your name and the name of your sponsored person on the back of the photo. Deadline: Sunday, January 14. These will be delivered in February to the mission in Uganda.

Pop cans are being collected as a fundraiser for a mission trip with ChristAid. Donations can be dropped off by the storage door west of the north church entrance (look for the sign). There is also a chocolate chip cookie sale (baker's dozen for \$15) in the church lobby.

W.O.W.

Our Worship on Wednesday (W.O.W.) continues from 6:00-8:00 p.m. All kids ages 4-5th grade are welcome to join us for a time of worship, fun, and most importantly, learning about Jesus. There will be **NO** W.O.W. on December 27.

Michelle Shocklee, author of the award-winning historical novels *Under the Tulip Tree* and *Count the Nights by Stars*, has another excellent new release titled *Appalachian Song*. This book takes us deep into the Appalachian Mountains and explores the family of Bertie Jenkins and her sisters. Bertie is a midwife and still recalls the day Songbird showed up on her doorstep pregnant and injured – and soon forced to make a heartbreaking decision. Thirty years later, a famous country singer and an adoption advocate arrive in Tennessee, hoping to discover the reason he was relinquished by his birth mom. Will Bertie reveal any secrets? Are they hers to tell?

Into the Fire by Irene Hannon is the first novel of her Undaunted Courage Series.

Arson Investigator, Bri Tucker, is left with several fiery deaths to solve after her colleague dies in a mysterious blaze. As Bri struggles to figure out with whom she can safely share the evidence and questions that keep her awake at night, she teams up with ATF Special Agent, Marc Davis. Although he is intrigued by Bri's findings, his hands are somewhat tied due to his position. They both have excellent instincts, but someone lurking in the darkness seems to know more than the investigators realize. Will they be able to solve this dangerous puzzle before it is too late? I enjoyed reading this fast-paced suspense novel. It kept me guessing. Review by Norene Sattler

Flying Blind by Dave Jackson is an edge of your seat novel. The story begins in remote south-central Columbia at Finca Fe, a boarding school for missionary kids, expats and various local children situated along the Magdalena River. The school is attacked by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia. Three are kidnapped, including nurse Terri Kaplan. Nick Archer was a bush pilot for the Missionary Aviation Support Team when the Revolutionary's attacked. Nick and his plane were stationed there, but he escaped capture and injury. Driven by his love for Terri, Nick ignores his diabetes and its threat to his eyesight while he risks everything to find Terri and rescue her from the jungle camp where the FARC has taken her to attend to their wounded. Duplicity by the CIA and pressure from the United States on the Colombian government to curtail the rampant cocaine trade turn Nick's rescue efforts into a total disaster. Complicating their crises are spiritual battles: Terri becomes confused about what she should do when she actually has a chance to escape, and Nick wonders where God is or if He even exists when God does not seem to answer any of his prayers. When Nick loses his vision from neglecting his eye problems at the very moment he has a chance to save Terri, he ends up flying blind! How can a blind pilot rescue a kidnapped nurse from desperate guerillas?

Missionaries/Shut-Ins/Military Directory

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MISSIONS/MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED

The Gideons International 8671 Buchanan St. West Olive, MI 49460	Western Michigan Adult & Teen Challenge 440 Pontaluna Rd. Muskegon, MI 49444	Jeff Totten Baseball Chapel Leader The Detroit Tigers PO Box 99026 Troy, MI 48099-9026
Jaime & Martha Amaro 2da Privada de Madero 13 San Lorenzo, Cacaotepec, Oaxaca 68263 Mexico marthaborja@hotmail.com	Grace Covenant Ministries P.O. Box 340 Annville, KY 40402	Words of Hope 700 Ball Ave., NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503
G.V.S.U. Campus Ministry G.V.S.U. 1 Cook-DeWitt Center Allendale, MI 49401	Love INC. 6633 Lake Michigan Dr. P.O. Box 131 Allendale, MI 49401	Coopersville Cares 180 68th Ave. N Coopersville, MI 49404
Paradise Bound Ministries & Chuaquenum Church Plant P.O. Box 652 Allendale, MI 49401	Bob Van Zyl United World Mission Email: bandkvz@gmail.com	Bruce VanDusseldorp ChristAid International P.O. Box 1374 Arvada, CO 80001

SICK, SHUT-INS, AGED ONES (Birthdays)

Lucy Folkema (April 29) 11289 Commerce Dr. #103 Allendale, MI 49401	Irma Rotman 640 W. Randall Coopersville, MI 49404	Marilyn Tanner 2121 Raybrook St. SE, Rm. 233 Grand Rapids, MI 49456
Lavina Van Beek (May 15) 13320 48th Ave Coopersville, MI 49404	Ed (May 27) & Gert (February 17) Vander Kolk 616 East St. Coopersville, MI 49404	

MILITARY (Birthdays)

LCpl Jacob Kooistra (July 15) 11893 Cline Rd. Ravenna, MI 49451	SSgt Andrew Hewitt (A.N.G.) (November 15) 448 Stowell St. NW Comstock Park, MI 49321	Sgt Jonathan Hewitt (May 1) 9333 Fruit Ridge Ave NW Sparta, MI 49345
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Smoes (September 13) 3931 Arbor Mill Circle Orange Park, FL 32065	Samuel B. Vander Ark (July 12) 3710 Arapahoe Trail San Angelo, TX 76905	

Birthday Celebrations

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- 1 Reagan Hill, Dick Van Dop
 - 2 Jamie Hill
 - 3 Trisha Schippers, Abigail Visser
 - 5 Faith Sunde
 - 6 Tracy Muller
 - 8 Katie Powers
 - 9 Karen Gish, Dale Schaaphok
 - 10 Stephanie Rosel
 - 11 Gavin Baker, Curt Lemmen
 - 13 Mark Speet
 - 14 Amanda Casler
 - 18 Chris Cushway, Jim Hall
 - 19 Wayne Bos, Reece Langeland, Matt Poliski
 - 20 Helen Hines, Cameron Neumann
 - 21 Mikayla Bakker, Ben Bukrey, Ellie Bukrey
 - 23 Ann Lemmen
 - 24 Isaac DeVries, Aaron Powers
 - 27 Jerry Bos, Alexa Davis
 - 28 Jan Metten, Samuel Quist
 - 29 Chuck Heinz, Chris Mayeaux
 - 30 Harlan Schmidt, Karla Twork
 - 31 Kali Chatman

Servant's Page

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Nursery

		9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
December 3	Infant Toddler	Danielle Poliski Mary Baird	Amber Vander Tuin Jo Van Dop, Hannah Vander Tuin
December 10	Infant Toddler	Casey Van Antwerpen Mary Baird	Amber Vander Tuin April DeMull, Olivia Vander Tuin
December 17	Infant Toddler	Shelly Visser Mary Baird	Amber Vander Tuin LeighAnn DeVries, Onna DeVries
December 24 Combined Service	Infant Toddler	NO NURSERY	
December 31	Infant Toddler	Tami Schoolcraft, Owen Schoolcraft Mary Baird	Amber Vander Tuin Trisha Schippers, Jo Van Dop

Little Tykes

		9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
December 3	Leader Helpers	Doug Casler Samantha Ulven	Amanda Casler
December 10	Leader Helpers	Doug Casler Samantha Ulven	Amanda Casler Kyren DeVries, Reagan Schippers
December 17	Leader Helpers	Doug Casler Samantha Ulven	Amanda Casler Addy Keller, Lily Keller
December 24 Combined Service	Leader Helpers	NO LITTLE TYKES	
December 31	Leader Helpers	Doug Casler Samantha Ulven	Amanda Casler Anya Dyk, Addie Dyk

Greeters

		Back of Sanctuary	Lobby
December 3	9:00 a.m.	Nichole Heinz	Scott & Tami Schoolcraft
December 10	9:00 a.m.	Randy & Coralee VanDenBrink	Gary & Karen Rollenhagen
December 17	9:00 a.m.	Tom & Diane Rozema	Rick & Marcia Draft
December 24 Combined Service	10:00 a.m.	Ron & Beth Veldman	Needed
December 31	9:00 a.m.	Jim & Kris Van Huis	Wes & Bonnie Busman

Coffee Fellowship

December 3	Lynda Johnson, Deb Mauk, Marcia Draft		
December 10	Tracey Kooistra, Lisa Wiltenburg		
December 17	Beth Baron, Jody Baker, Mary Bialas, Tonya Lemmen, Judy McPherson		
December 24 Combined Service			
December 31	Amanda Casler, LeaAnn Tibbe, Carol Riemersma, Julie Palma, Karen Lemmen		

Calendar of Events

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December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship 6:00-8:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00-8:00 pm One Way	4 6:00 pm Family Celebration	5 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer 7:00 pm Choir of Praise Practice	6 6:00 pm W.O.W. 6:30 pm Cuddle Up Time 6:45 pm The Vineyard	7 6:30-8:00 pm Crossroads	8 9:00 a.m.-2:00 pm Women's Work Bee S.A.L.T. Event	9
10 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship 6:00-8:00 pm One Way	11	12 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer 7:00 pm Choir of Praise Practice	13 6:00 pm W.O.W. 6:30 pm Cuddle Up Time 6:45 pm The Vineyard	14 6:30-8:00 pm Crossroads	15	16
17 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship 6:00-8:00 pm One Way	28	19 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer 7:00 pm Choir of Praise Practice	20 6:00 pm W.O.W. 6:30 pm Cuddle Up Time 6:45 pm The Vineyard	21 6:30-8:00 pm Crossroads	22 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	23
24/31 10:00 am Combined Worship (24th) 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (24th) NO One Way	25 Office Closed	26	27	28	29 12:00 pm S.A.L.T. Event	30

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Coopersville Reformed Church
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