



## Athens Christian Church 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 am Worship Services

December 14, 2025

"Thanks be to God for  
His indescribable gift!"

2 Corinthians 9:15

### Welcome to Athens Christian Church

If this is your first visit, we're so glad you're here. To help us stay connected, please fill out a visitor card located at the back of the chair in front of you and drop it in the offering box. If you'd like to receive our monthly church newsletter by email, be sure to include your email address on the card.

We're thrilled you've joined us for worship today! During the service, the Lord's Supper is available to all believers. Please feel free to make yourself at home. On your way out, don't forget to stop by the foyer to pick up a complimentary Bible. We look forward to seeing you again next week!

At ACC, we strive to be a loving family of Christ-followers, bringing light into a dark world. Please call on us when we can help:

#### Elders:

Jeremy McDaniel/217-971-9416  
Curt Reichling/217-636-9252  
Doug Wendler/217-652-2133  
Jack Brown/217-741-0381

#### GriefShare Ministry:

Carla Knox/  
217-415-5032  
Mary Ellen Buch/  
217-899-7598

#### Ministry Contacts:

Ken Gennicks,  
Senior Minister/217-415-5724  
Shane Baker,  
Associate Minister/217-415-9035  
Lorna Baker,  
Children's Minister/217-502-1256  
Ashley Cantrall,  
Worship/Technology Minister  
217-652-5433  
Evan Noggle,  
Youth Minister/217-415-5644  
Morgan Wells, After School  
Program/217-414-5433  
Josh Harris, Preaching Intern  
217-971-8371

#### Stephen Ministers:

Contact Person,  
Donna Douglas:  
217-522-1134 or  
217-971-6732  
or contact the church  
office/217-636-8463



Download the  
ACC app

1411 E. Route 29 • Athens IL 62613  
217-636-8463  
www.athenschristian.net  
www.facebook.com/athenschristianIL

### 8:00 am Traditional Service

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:5-10

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing* #184 (v. 1-3)

*The First Noel* #179 (v. 1-3, 6)

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* #197 (v. 1-3)

Christmas Candle Lighting: Adam & Ivy Havrilka family

Acts of Worship: Russ Witmer

Sermon: Shane Baker

"People of the Bible: 'Zechariah:  
When Getting the Gift You Want Costs You'"  
(Luke 1)

Invitation Hymn: *Jesus, I Come* #401 (v. 1 & 4)

Communion & Offering Hymn:  
*Break Thou the Bread of Life* #30 (v. 1 & 2)

Communion & Offering Meditation: Josh Harris  
Quietly move to Communion & Offering  
tables before exiting.

### 9:15 & 10:30 am Contemporary Service

Welcome

*Mighty Name of Jesus*  
*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
*Is He Worth?*

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

Christmas Candle Lighting  
9:15: RJ Wehmhoff & Zakk Edwards  
10:30: Nick & Alicia Pierson family

Acts of Worship: Nathania Laier &  
Krista Summers-McCormick

Sermon: Shane Baker  
"People of the Bible: 'Zechariah:  
When Getting the Gift You Want Costs You'"  
(Luke 1)

Invitation Hymn: *Worthy of it All*

*Angels We Have Heard on High/Agnus Dei*

Communion & Offering Meditation: Josh Harris  
Quietly move to Communion & Offering  
tables before exiting.

### AM Sermon Notes

"People of the Bible: - Zechariah:  
When Getting the Gift You Want Costs You"  
(Luke 1)

#### INTRODUCTION

We continue in 2025 with our Bible studies focusing on "People of the Bible," biographical sketches and timeless lessons from their lives. Every Sunday we study and apply God's Word to our lives. Today we turn to the book of Luke, chapter 1, as we near the time when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This morning we look at the life—or more precisely, a moment in the life—of a man named Zechariah.

#### Bible Study

I. Zechariah's \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5-7)

II. Zechariah's \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 8-10)

III. Zechariah's \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 11-25)

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 11-12)

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 13-17)

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 18)

D. The \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 19-20)

E. The \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 21-22)

F. The \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 23-25)

#### Applying to Our Lives

1. \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ us all.
2. We must \_\_\_\_\_ it for it to be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ when you \_\_\_\_\_ it.

#### CONCLUSION

A moment in Zechariah's life changed his life. Many moments in history have the ability to change our lives. One moment in history has the ability to change our lives for eternity. Will you receive the gift of that moment? And if so, what will you do with it?!

### Prayer Requests

**At Memorial:** David "Mike" Whitehurst, Daphne Minor (Clint Clark's sister/to Barnes), Jim Flesch (Doug/Lisa Mueller's son-in-law/kidney cancer surgery/12th)

**At St. John's:** Linda Caldwell (Gail Farrell's sister)

**At St. Louis hospital:** Mimie Dunkirk (Pat Basso's friend), Karen Johnson (Marla Justice's sister-in-law/surgery/12th)

**Tests:** Bruce Kennett, Dave/Sandy Magee, Al Keller, Dwayne Rudolph, Rhonda Leinberger, Laurie Ingram's brother, Barb Wagner, Hudson Davis, Albert McCarthy, David Primm, Kay Sill's sister, Pat McNeal's friend, Linda Hoffman's son, Alice Lasswell's brother, Tammy Garner, Brandon Keppler's uncle, Ruth Novy (shoulder/15th), Lorrie Sleight's mom/dad/sister, Judy Bryant, Bree Chandler, Jodi Peacock's friend, Pat Halberstadt, Amelia Whitman (Brian's daughter/Jerry Judd's friends/16th/Barnes), Ericka McCoy's dad/family, Linda Caldwell's friends, Linda Fisher (surgery?), Mary Magee (Jan. 7), Donnie Fritz, Pam Cook (Virginia Heinzel's daughter./surgery 16th), Amy Ahrens (Andy's wife/Judds' friend)

**At home:** John Haggard (Lori's husband/surgery), Bonnie Russell, Terry Wunderle, Nancy Nale's mom, Morgan Setzer, Deb Claypool's friend, Tom Novy, Wanda Stott, Jill Cleer (Arcadia), Kevin/Carrie Lee/Colton Ingham, Cyndee Blakeman, Nancy Oliver (hospice), Janice Bollman, Jack/Betty Ethell's daughter, Andrew Combs, Sierra Lowers' mom, Kenny Bounds (hospice), Jo Ellen Croft's mom, Dawn Medley, Marlene Wegner, Rena Hiatt (Alexx Mullins' grandma)

**Transitions:** Ann Vaughn (Bill Peterman's m-in-law/Trustwell), Sally Vespa's parents (to Carriage Crossing), Curt Reichling's mom, Bev Nolting's cousin, Roberta Clark/Dick & Elaine Bachman/Steve Gutierrez/Charles "Butch" Mester/Al Betz/Joann Kirchgessner/Rosalie Ingram (Villa), Mary Prior/Erna Weatherby/Bob Moore (Countryside), Carolyn Cole (Concordia/hospice), Marge Ray/Vivian Rankin (Vonderlieth), Chuck VanHuss (Jacksonville), Gerald "Jerry" Brown (Susan VanNattan's relative/hospice), Cory Craig, Jr. (Ozark Christian College)

**ACC's outreach to people of our region**

**Fall Preaching Intern:** Josh Harris (till Dec. 24)

**21 to Young Adult 'Passion Conf':** Dec. 31/TX

**Vacation Bible School:** June 8-12, 6-8:00 p.m./all ages

**112 to Christ In Youth Conf.:** July 6-10/Lincoln, NE

**Blake Canterbury:** [facebook.com/monroechurchplant](https://facebook.com/monroechurchplant)

**Kyle Gennicks:** [wearegospelcity.churchcenter.com](https://wearegospelcity.churchcenter.com)

**Capital Stewardship Campaign: Let Your Light Shine (2023-2025)**

**Capital Stewardship Campaign: EXCEL (2026-2028)**

**Our missionaries/military/terrorism/nation**

**Each other/unspoken needs**



Before you leave today, please be sure to stop by the lobby and sign the greeting cards for friends and family of ACC.

Also please send a card to Kevin Kennett and let him know we miss him here at ACC:

**Kevin Kennett, 367A George RD  
Petersburg IL 62675**



# Christmas Around the Piano

This Evening, December 14  
6:00 pm

Celebrate the season this evening with beautiful Christmas music shared by talented members and friends of ACC. Those participating are: AWSOM girls group, Lorna Baker, Anthony Bolton, Scarlet Bosie, Betsy Burris, Ashley Cantrall, McKenley Combs, Hank Daubs, Tammy Derringer, Angie Fritz, Ava Gennicks, Ivy Havrillka, Josie Keppler, Nathania Laier, Jen McCormick, Krista Summers McCormick, Elynor Nance, Alaska Pierson, Hunter Pierson, Wyatt Pierson, Curt Reichling, Susan Reichling, Gerry Turner, and more...

### Christmas Contemporary Choir

Sunday, December 21  
9:15 & 10:30 am services  
Sign up in the church lobby

Practice times:  
Thursday, December 18, 6-7:30 pm  
Saturday, December 20, 9-10:30 am



### FREE! Christmas COFFEE & PASTRIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21  
8:30 - 11:00 AM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY TO HELP PROVIDE: MILK, JUICE, FRUIT CUPS, YOGURT CUPS, PASTRIES, DONUTS, MUFFINS, BREADS



### FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR JOSH HARRIS

SUNDAY, DEC. 21, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

WE WILL HAVE DESSERTS, AND A SPECIAL PRAYER TIME OVER JOSH. THERE WILL BE A BOX TO COLLECT CARDS, A PHOTO TO SIGN IN THE LIBRARY AND WE WILL ALSO TAKE UP A LOVE OFFERING TOWARD BIBLE COLLEGE EXPENSES AT OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.



*We will miss you!*  
*Hugs and prayers*

PASSION  
DEC. 31-JAN. 3, 2026

 Ellie Alderman	 Lilly Alderman	 Olivia Baker	 Kamrie Charron	 Cory Craig Jr.	 Natalee Dermer
 Alyssa Ferguson	 Myles Ferguson	 Asher Frank	 Cole Halsey	 Jaelyn Lasley	 Isabella Link
 Clayton McNeal	 Nicholas McDaniel	 Nicole Muench	 Gabby Przygocki	 Grant Purchis	 Ethan Reichling

# Christmas Eve at Athens Christian Church

Wednesday, December 24

## Candlelight & Communion Services

2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM  
(Childcare available for Birth-4 years at 3 PM)

Celebrate Christmas Eve with candlelight, music, and a devotion during each special service. Communion will be available and is open to all who wish to participate. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

The following people will be participating:

- 2:00pm - Ashley Cantrall, Angie Fritz, Ava Gennicks, Ken Gennicks, Josh Harris, Noah Krause, Marlana Krause, Leilah Link, Elynor Nance
- 3:00pm - Ella Armitage, Ken Gennicks, Josh Harris, Nathania Laier, Sandy Knoles, Terry Knoles, Krista Summers-McCormick
- 4:00pm - Anthony Bolton, Ashley Cantrall, Ken Gennicks, Josh Harris, Alaska Pierson, Hunter Pierson, Wyatt Pierson, Doug Wendler, Sharon Wendler
- 5:00pm - Kenneth Baker, Olivia Baker, Anthony Bolton, Ken Gennicks, Josh Harris, Gerry Turner, Nancy Winterbauer, Russ Witmer
- 6:00pm - Anthony Bolton, Hank Daubs, Ken Gennicks, Haley Glick, Josh Harris, Abby Heffern, Bailey Shipp, Gerry Turner



- ### Applying Today's Sermon to Your Life
- Our 2025 Bible studies focus on *"The People of the Bible"* and what they teach us about living daily for the Lord Jesus Christ. Studying the lives of the early followers of God challenges us to examine our lives and commitment to faithfully follow God, even when life gets messy and hard. Our Verse-of-the-Week is 2 Corinthians 9:15: *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* How has the gift of Jesus impacted your life?
  - Have you ever been surprised when God answered your prayer the way you wanted him to? Why did you respond in this way?
  - What has God done recently that has shocked you?
  - What would stop God from using you to help build His kingdom?
  - What do you need to change in your life to be more available to God?
  - Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Why or why not? Who do you need to talk to if you haven't yet?
  - What are you doing with the gift of God's Son that He has given you?
  - I will apply today's Bible study by:

### CHRIST IN YOUTH 2026

July 6-10, 2026 in Lincoln, Nebraska

"CIY" is a powerful, week-long event designed to inspire and equip high school students to deepen their faith and boldly live for Christ. Because we want to take as many high schoolers from our area as we can, ACC has stepped out in faith and purchased **112 tickets for CIY 2026!!**

**ONLY 15 SPOTS REMAIN!!!**

To secure your spot, register and pay \$100 non-refundable deposit at [athenschristian.net/ciy](https://athenschristian.net/ciy) or scan 

### Winter Weather Reminder

If the Athens School District closes or lets out early due to weather conditions, events at Athens Christian Church will be closed for that evening. A notice will also be issued on News Channel 20, the ACC Facebook page, and through the prayer chain.



- ### Today & This Week
- TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 - Angel Tree Gifts Due**
- 7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)  
8:00 am Traditional Worship Svc. (nursery birth-2 yrs/3-5 yrs.)  
9:15 am Contemporary Worship Service  
9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages:
  - Adult Classes:
    - » The Ambassadors, led by Dan Haynes (Rm. 223)
    - » Christian Living, led by Harry Schirding & Doug Wendler (Rm. 203)
    - » Kingdom Seekers, led by Terry Henrikson & Nancy Winterbauer (Rm. 105)
    - » Deep Divers, led by Anthony Bolton (Rm. 106)
  - Jr./Sr. High School (Rm. 113/114)
  - Kids C.L.U.B. for 4 yrs.-kind., 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade
  - Childcare for birth-3 years
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
  - Kids C.L.U.B. for K-6th grade/Childcare for birth-4yrs.
- 11:30 am Youth WNC Leader Meeting (Rm. 112)  
11:30 am ACC Outdoors Meeting (Rm. 105)  
1:00 pm Pick-Up Basketball for Ages 13+ (FLC)  
3:00 pm "Caroling at the Carillon" (Washington Park/Spfld.)  
4:00 pm Elders' Meeting (Rm. 105)  
5:30 pm Prayer Gathering led by Donnie & Angie Fritz (Rm. 105)  
6:00 pm Christmas Around the Piano (WC)
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 15** REVELATION 8  
6:30 am High School to Hae's Coffee (MacArthur/Spfld.)  
9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)  
5:30 pm FUSE Staff Meeting (Rm. 223, Kitchen)
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16** REVELATION 9  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study (Rm. 223)
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17** REVELATION 10  
9:00 am Chair Aerobics
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18** REVELATION 11  
6:00 pm Pickleball for Ages 13+ (FLC)  
6:00 pm Christmas Contemporary Choir Practice (WC)
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19** REVELATION 12  
Church Office Closed  
9:00 am Chair Aerobics
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**  
9:00 am Christmas Contemporary Choir Practice (WC)  
9:00 am Athens Area Food Pantry Monthly Distribution (Rt. 29)
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21: - Love Offering for Josh Harris**  
7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)  
8:00 am Traditional Worship Svc. (nursery birth-2 yrs/3-5 yrs.)  
8:30-11:00 am Christmas Coffee & Pastries (FLC)  
9:15 am Contemporary Worship Service  
9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages  
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
  - Kids C.L.U.B. for K-6th grade/Childcare for birth-4yrs.  
11:30 am Farewell Reception for Josh Harris (FLC)  
12:45 pm Senior Trip to Hoogland Center (Spfld.)