

VERSE

of the

WEEK

Athens Christian Church

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM

worship Services

DECEMBER 21, 2025

"The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

JOHN 1:14

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:

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

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/
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Download the
ACC app

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217-636-8463

www.athenschristian.net

www.facebook.com/athenschristianIL

8:00 am Traditional Service

Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:6-7

Angels We Have Heard on High #192 (v. 1-3)

O Little Town of Bethlehem #178 (v. 1-4)

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

Away in a Manger #185 (v. 1-3)

Christmas Candle Lighting:
Michael & Abby Heffern family

Acts of Worship: Gospel Quartet

Sermon: Josh Harris

"People of the Bible:
'What Christmas Meant To Those Who Were There'"
(Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2)

Invitation Hymn: Under His Wings #412 (v. 1 & 3)

Communion & Offering Hymn:
Calvary Covers it All #250 (v. 1 & 4)

Communion & Offering Meditation: Evan Noggle

Quietly move to Communion & Offering
tables before exiting.

9:15 & 10:30 am Contemporary Service

Welcome

The Joy/Joy to the World,
O Come All Ye Faithful, Is He Worthy?

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

Christmas Candle Lighting:
9:15: Austin & Sami Montgomery family
10:30: Matt & Tsoetsy Harris family

Acts of Worship: Shane Baker & Ashley Cantrall

Sermon: Josh Harris

"People of the Bible:
'What Christmas Meant To Those Who Were There'"
(Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2)

Invitation Hymn: O Holy Night

Holy Forever

Communion & Offering Meditation:
9:15 am Evan Noggle / 10:30 am Ken Gennicks

Quietly move to Communion & Offering
tables before exiting.

AM Sermon Notes

"People of the Bible:
'What Christmas Meant To Those Who Were There'"
(Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2)

INTRODUCTION

Thursday is Christmas Day, so this morning we're all thinking about what Christmas means to us! But imagine *What Christmas Meant To Those Who Were There*, and how that changes our FOCUS:

Bible Study

I. To the innkeeper, it brought a _____ (Luke 2:1-7)

II. To the shepherds, it brought a _____ (Luke 2:8-14)

III. To the wisemen, it brought a _____ (Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11)

IV. To Herod, it brought a _____ (Matt. 2:3,16)

V. To Jesus, it brought _____ (2 Cor. 8:9)

CONCLUSION

In light of *What Christmas Meant To Those Who Were There*, are you FOCUSED on Christ this Season, or have you been distracted? Apply today's Bible study as follows:

F:

(2 Cor. 10:5)

O:

(Lk. 9:23)

C:

(Jas 1:2)

U:

(2 Cor. 12:9)

S:

(Mk 10:45)

At that first Christmas, people responded in various ways. They still do. What's your response to Christ today?

Prayer Requests

At Memorial: David "Mike" Whitehurst, Linda Cramer

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

At St. Louis hospital: Amelia Barnes (Jerry Judd's friends/surgery)

At WI hospital: Wayne/Barb Schafer's daughter

Tests: Bruce Kennett, Dave Magee, Al Keller, Dwayne Rudolph, Rhonda Leinberger, Laurie Ingram's brother, Barb Wagner, Albert McCarthy, Kay Sill's sister, Pat McNeal's friend, Linda Hoffman's son, Alice Lasswell's brother, Tammy Garner, Brandon Keppler's uncle, Lorrie Sleight's mom/dad/sister, Judy Bryant, Bree Chandler, Pat Halberstadt, Ericka McCoy's dad/family, Linda Fisher, Mary Magee (Jan. 7), Donnie Fritz, Virginia Heinzl's daughter, Marla Justice's sister-in-law, Doug/Lisa Mueller's son-in-law

At home: Sandy Magee (Dave's wife), Bonnie Russell, Terry Wunderle, Nancy Nale's mom, Morgan Setzer, Deb Claypool's friend, Tom/Ruth Novy, Wanda Stott, Jill Cleer (Arcadia), Kevin/Carrie Lee/Colton Ingham, Cyndee Blakeman, 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, John Haggard, Kevin Kennett

Touched by death: Daphne Minor family (Clint Clark's sister), Mimie Dunkirk family (Pat Basso's/Sandy Magee's friend), Carla Knous family (Ericka McCoy's aunt)

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 Kirchgesner/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), Cory Craig, Jr./Josh Harris/Nicholas McDaniel (to 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

Kyle Gennicks: 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.

FREE! *Christmas*
COFFEE & PASTRIES
TODAY 8:30-11:00 AM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US
IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR JOSH HARRIS
11:30 TODAY IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

 *Hugs and prayers*

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

 Short daily recaps to help you understand the Bible.

HAVE YOU EVER CLOSED YOUR BIBLE AND THOUGHT, WHAT DID I JUST READ?

You can read, understand, and love the Bible!

THE **BIBLE RECAP**

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 9:15 AM IN ROOM 220/221

Sign up in the lobby or online to join us!

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

Wednesday Night Connection
Resumes January 14


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, Isabella Link, 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**
1. Christmas means different things to different people today. What might Christmas mean to those listed below, and why?
A. Outdoor Construction worker:

B. Church Volunteer:

C. New mother:

D. Sales Clerk:
 2. Is it possible that the innkeeper in Luke 2:1-7 gave all he had to give? Would you have done anything differently if you were in his position that night? Like what?
A.

B.

C.

D.
 3. Read John 1:1, 14. How are these two verses also a Christmas text?
 4. The Old Testament accurately foretold Jesus' coming centuries before His birth in great detail. Compare each Old Testament prophecy to its New Testament fulfillment:
A. Isaiah 7:14=Matthew 1:18-25

B. Micah 5:2=Matthew 2:1-6

C. Hosea 11:1=Matthew 2:15

D. Isaiah 53:4=Matthew 8

E. Isaiah 53=John 1:29; 11:49-52

F. Psalm 16:10=Matthew 28:1-10


G. Genesis 3:15=Romans 16:20
 5. Celebrate Christmas this week by giving, forgiving, sharing, and loving!

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 21 - Josh Harris Love Offering**
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:
• 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 Farewell Reception for Josh Harris (FLC)
12:45 pm Senior Trip to Hoogland Center (Spfld.)

- MONDAY, DECEMBER 22** REVELATION 13
9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)
6:00 pm Athens Area Food Pantry Monthly Distribution (Rt. 29)

- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23** REVELATION 14
8:00 am Men's Bible Study (Rm. 223)

- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**
READ REVELATION 15
2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 pm
30-minute Candlelight & Communion Services
Childcare Birth thru 4 Yrs. at 3:00 pm
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- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25** REVELATION 16
Church Office Closed

- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26** REVELATION 17
Church Office Closed

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27**

- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28**
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
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
• Kids C.L.U.B. for K-6th grade/Childcare for birth-4yrs.

