



*“In the heart of the community;
with a heart for your family”*

A Pastor’s Ponderings

December 18, 2016

From the earliest days of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, we teach our children that “*God is love*”. But if we’re not careful, we’ll teach that great truth based on the pre-conceived idea that “*Everyone knows that God is love...right?*” But ask yourself this: Does the woman in India, who is persuaded by her religion to take her little child and throw it into the river as an offering to the crocodiles, have any concept or idea that “*God is love*”? Does the man in Africa, bowing down to his idols of wood and stone, trembling with fear lest they should strike back at him and destroy his crops and take away his children... does he have any idea that “*God is love*”?

What I’m asking you is this: How do WE know that “*God is love*”? How is this broken, sin-cursed world of ours able to realize that “*God is love*”? It’s simple, really. He told us so Himself!

The Bible is the only book in the world that contains the idea that the God behind all created matter is a God of love. Creation may reveal His power and might, but there is nothing in nature that says, “*God is love.*” The fact is, the only reason we know that God is love is because He sent His Son and manifested Himself as love.

At the root of all God does for us is His never-ending love. The fountain from which all of God's activity stems is His divine kind of self-giving love. Today we celebrate the fact that “*God is love*”. We know He is because not only did He tell us, but He also showed us! And that, my friend, is what Christmas is all about!

Weekly Schedule for December 18 to December 25

Today Sunday School10:00 am
Morning Worship11:00 am
Choir’s Musical Cantata6:00 pm
“Come Let Us Adore”

Tuesday Men’s Breakfast9:00 am

Wednesday K.I.A. in Fellowship Hall
The Experience*
Junior High Small Group*
(* meets at The Spot)
Adult Prayer & Bible Study

Group activities begin at 7:00 pm

Thursday **Caroling**leaving church at 5:30 pm

Saturday **Christmas Eve Service**5:30 pm

Next Sunday Morning Worship11:00 am
(There will be no Sunday School nor Evening Worship Service next Sunday.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY	HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
James BaileyTuesday Malea BennettTuesday Alex SmithTuesday Brandon ShipleyWednesday Todd WilhoitFriday	Friday Charles & Peggy Payne

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS	
TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
AM - Laura Norton, Kathy Ferguson and Hunter Barker	AM - Michael Ferguson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Our fellowship suppers are taking a holiday break. We will have the next one sometime in January. Watch the bulletin for times and menu. Merry Christmas and many happy meals with your family and friends in the meantime.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES & FELLOWSHIPS

Need to reserve the church fellowship hall for your group, classes or family activities? First come. First served. Sign up on the kitchen wall calendar in the fellowship hall.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY: SUNDAY, DEC. 18

Kids will be released today at the very beginning of church service to allow them time to enjoy their annual Christmas Party. We will be providing food, fun time, and a ‘special’ Christmas gift. We love you kids and wish you a Merry Christmas!

2016 CHRISTMAS CARD MINISTRY

The New Salem “post office” is still open for a few more days! To send Christmas cards to church families, we encourage you to consider donating the money you would normally spend on postage toward our **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** and send your cards through the church “post office”. Simply put the family’s corresponding number in the upper right corner of the envelope *where a stamp would normally go* and drop them off before **this Wednesday, Dec. 21st**.

CHRISTMAS CARD ADDRESSES

Doug and Barb Weberg Camp Tejas 1038 PR 2191 Giddings, TX 78942 <i>(They will be there until Jan. 6th)</i>	Keith Issac Cutshall 1035 5 th Ave SW Minot, ND 58701
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SCHEDULE CHANGES

Please refer to the Weekly Schedule for important changes in our services and activities times.

