



Volume 7, Issue 6

December 2018 & January 2019

Here comes Winter!

The Smells of The Stable

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor 2

From the Pastor cont. 3
Happenings

December Calendar 4

January Calendar 5

Nursery schedule 6
Letter

Food for Thought 7

A Merry Heart 8

Activity Page 9

*They shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." —
Matthew 1: 23*

A stable? What a place to give birth to the Messiah! The smells and sounds of a barnyard were our Savior's first human experience. Like other babies, He may even have cried at the sounds of the animals and the strangers parading around His temporary crib.

If so, they would have been the first of many tears. Jesus would come to know human loss and sorrow, the doubts his brothers and family had about Him, and the pain His mother experienced as she saw Him tortured and killed.

All these hardships—and so much more—awaited the baby trying to sleep that first night. Yet from His very first moments, Jesus was "God with us" (Matt. 1:23), and He knew what it meant to be human. This would continue for over three decades, ending at His death on the cross.

Because of His love for you and me, Jesus became fully human. And being human allows Him to identify with us. Never again can we say that no one understands us. Jesus does.

May the Light that entered the world that night cast its brilliance into the deepest corners of our souls this Christmas, giving us the peace on Earth of which the angels spoke so long ago.

*Father, help our hearts to know the
love of Christ and to honor Him
with our unyielding devotion in
this and every season. We love You.
Jesus understands.*

By [Randy Kilgore](#)





How to Fight Lukewarmness

One of the most dangerous things to happen to any Christian is to grow apathetic. Apathy is simply a loss of zeal and enthusiasm for the things of God, whether they be our service for Him in the church, or our daily struggle to stay faithful in the position the Lord has given you in your sphere of influence. As we celebrated Thanksgiving, we acknowledged that the Lord has been so faithful to us. He has been with us through thick and thin. So as we give thanks to God for His “*abounding faithfulness*” ([Exodus 34:6](#)), it is now good for us to examine our own faithfulness as we prepare to embark upon a new year. How faithful are we? How faithful have we been? This is important because “*it is required of stewards that they be found faithful*” ([1 Corinthians 4:2](#)). And a gauge of our faithfulness is our level of lukewarmness. Luke warmness is how apathy was described to the Church in Laodicea in the book of Revelation.

Don't Grow Grey with Age

Lukewarmness is the dying of conviction. And conviction often dies the slow death of a thousand compromises. Truth does not grey with age. Rather, our moral eyes cloud from the cataracts of compromise. And with each compromise we lose more resolve to see truth and be faithful to it. We call black grey only to ease our consciences.

Lukewarmness Is a Symptom of a Disease

Most of us in the prosperous West live in modern day Laodiceas ([Revelation 3:14–22](#)). Our faith is not endangered by persecution but by the constant temptations of worldly compromise. Jesus, the “*faithful and true witness*” (verse 14) rebuked the Laodiceans for having grown “lukewarm” (verse 16) in unfaithfulness and exhorted them to “buy from [Him]. . . salve to anoint [their] eyes” (verse 18) to heal their cataracts of compromise. If a fever is a symptom of disease in the body, lukewarmness or apathy is a symptom of the disease of unfaithfulness in the soul. And like all of us experience bodily fevers and fight disease, all of us experience lukewarmness to greater or lesser degrees and must fight the disease of unfaithfulness.

Jesus's Prescription for Unfaithfulness

If we feel lukewarm, how do we fight the disease? Our faithful and true Physician gives us his prescription: “be zealous and repent” ([Revelation 3:19](#)). But how does a lukewarm person just “be zealous”? Isn't that the problem — not being zealous? No! The problem is not perceiving the disease of which lukewarmness is a symptom. If you think all that you have is a cold, you may not think much of a fever. But if you find out that cancer is causing your fever, suddenly zeal is not a problem. Lukewarmness is a symptom of the cancer of unfaithful unbelief in the soul. If left untreated it will result in an unspeakably horrible experience: Jesus will spew you out of his mouth ([Revelation 3:16](#)). It is not the unfaithful who receive the eternal reward. The reward goes to “*the one who conquers*” ([Revelation 3:21](#)) — the one who fights and overcomes.

(continued)

How does a lukewarm person repent? Don't wait for some emotional feeling. Repent right now! Turn around and get moving in the right direction. Take one step and then another. When it comes to repenting, rarely is our problem not knowing what to do. The Spirit shows us what to do if we want to repent. Our problem is wanting to repent. (To address that problem read the above paragraph again.)

Grace to the Unfaithful

Jesus's hard words of warning to the Laodiceans was grace. He wasn't telling them to earn their salvation by being faithful. He was telling them that lukewarm unfaithfulness might be evidence that they didn't have saving faith. It was a "*you have cancer*" moment. And He had the treatment. He was telling them to repent and come back to Him for healing. That's the grace he extends to most of us followers who, like Peter ([Luke 22:60-62](#)), fall at some time into the sin of unfaithfulness. Repentance is the evidence of real, if deficient, faith.

Fierce Fidelity

To remain faithful is not merely a struggle. It is war. To be faithful to God, our spouse, our children, our church, and our vocation, requires that we fight every day against the indwelling sin that presses us toward compromises. Don't coddle little compromises. Kill them. Fight the good fight of faith ([1 Timothy 6:12](#)) by fighting fiercely for fidelity.

Don't coddle little compromises. Kill them.

Repentance becomes a holy habit of the faithful fighter. The sin of compromise is always crouching at our door and we must rule over it ([Genesis 4:7](#)). We do this by cultivating the skill of taking every thought captive to obey Christ ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)).

In your thanksgiving, thank God for the grace of his hard words that, in kindness, leads you to repentance ([Romans 2:4](#)). In this new year, resist the devil ([James 4:7](#)), repent of any greying of black, and fight lukewarmness like the plague.

Notes from Desiring God.org

Plan to attend the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on December 24 at 7pm. Invite Family and friends to hear the Christmas story of our Saviors birth.



Beginning on January 9th, 2019

WEDNESDAYS AT WOODVILLE
FAMILY
WORSHIP NIGHT
Supper begins at 5:30pm
Awana Program @ 6pm / Prayer & Preaching @ 6:30pm



December 2018



Sundays

Worship
Services
10:00 a.m.
Sunday school
9:00 a.m.
11:45 a.m.

Mondays

1st & 3rd
10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid
Bible study

Mondays

6:00 p.m.
Men's Bible
study

Tuesdays

7:00 a.m.
Men's Bible
study

Tuesdays

5:30 p.m.
Supper
6:00 p.m.
AWANA

Wednesday

Night Service
7 p.m.

3rd Friday

Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 2 Zion Lutheran Church | 3 Men's Bible study <i>Ladies Aid</i> | 4 Men's Bible study AWANA | 5 Wednesday Night Service | 6 Praise Team practice | 7 | 1 Elders Prayer Time 8 Elders Prayer Time |
| 9 Sunday school Worship Service Sunday school | 10 Men's Bible study | 11 Men's Bible study AWANA | 12 Christian Women's Club Wednesday Night Service | 13 Praise Team practice | 14 | 15 Elders Prayer Time |
| 16 Sunday school Worship Service Sunday school Sunday Evening Gathering | 17 <i>Ladies Aid</i> Men's Bible study | 18 Men's Bible study AWANA Christmas party | 19 Wednesday Evening Gathering | 20 Praise Team practice | 21 Board Meeting | 22 |
| 23 Worship Service | 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Candle Light Service | 25 <i>Christmas Day</i> | 26 No Wednesday Service | 27 Praise Team practice | 28 | 29 Elders Prayer Time |
| 30 Worship Service | 31 <i>New Years Eve</i> | | | | | Greeters for December: Al & Karen White |



December Birthdays

5th Paul Morse
6th Paisleigh Minor
9th Gene Fisher
13th Larry Frontjes
15th Ronica Garrod
16th Carol Maring
16th Adriana Beckwith

18th Laurel Garrod
19th Gayle Knuver
20th Renee Cook
21st Gordon Witte
22nd Charlie Minor
24th Carolyn Bushre
26th Larry Gravelin

December Anniversaries

2nd Jeff & Teri Ouderkirk
5th Wes & Barb Knight
12th Pastor Brett & Shelly Werner
27th Eric & Pam Morgan
29th Glenn & Marilyn Patrick (62 years)

Items on this calendar are subject to change





January 2019



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sundays Worship Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday school 9:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m. | | 1 <i>New Years Day 2019</i> | 2 <i>Wednesday Night Service</i> | 3 Praise Team practice | 4 | 5 Elders Prayer Time |
| 6 Sunday school Worship service Sunday school | 7 <i>Ladies Aid</i> Men's Bible study | 8 Men's Bible study | 9 <i>Wednesday Night Service</i> AWANA | 10 Praise Team practice | 11 | 12 Elders Prayer Time |
| 13 Sunday school Worship service Sunday school | 14 Men's Bible study | 15 Men's Bible study | 16 <i>Wednesday Night Service</i> AWANA | 17 Praise Team practice | 18 Board Meeting | 19 |
| 20 Sunday school Worship service Sunday school | 21 <i>Ladies Aid</i> Men's Bible study | 22 Men's Bible study | 23 <i>Wednesday Night Service</i> AWANA | 24 Praise Team practice | 25 | 26 Elders Prayer Time |
| 27 Sunday school Worship service Sunday school | 28 Men's Bible study | 29 Men's Bible study | 30 <i>Wednesday Night Service</i> AWANA | 31 Praise Team practice | | |

Wednesdays

Night Service
6:30 p.m.

3rd Friday

Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.



January Birthdays

8th Glenn Patrick
9th Kennidee Gravelin
10th Joe Richards
12th Ormand Hook
18th Pattie Morse
19th Peg Peters

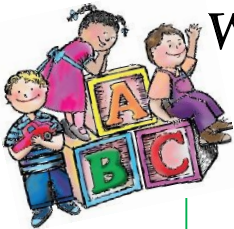
24th Kathy Weeks
29th Nicole Bell
31st Cohen Garrod
31st Chris Rottman
31st Tim Cook

January Anniversaries

21st Bob & Mary Cook



Items on this calendar
are subject to change



WOODVILLE CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

December

2nd Mary Cook & Sue Walta
9th Carolyn Bushre & Sylvia Edwards
16th Pam Morgan & Kathy Weeks
23rd Kim Schaefer & Karla Winter
30th Teri Hook & Brittany Hurlbert

January

6th
13th Coming Soon
20th
27th

Thank you ladies for your service in caring for these little ones.

If you are unable to serve on the date that you are scheduled please contact Pam Morgan at 616-502-3423 as soon as possible.



1ST CORINTHIANS 13 (A Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozen of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

...In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure.

Cheesy Sausage Potatoes

Ingredients

3 pounds potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch slices
1 pound bulk pork sausage
1 medium onion, chopped
1/4 cup butter, melted
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese



Directions

Place potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, until tender, 8-10 minutes. Meanwhile, crumble sausage into a large skillet; add onion. Cook over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain if necessary. Drain potatoes; arrange in an ungreased 13x9-in. baking dish. Drizzle with butter. Add sausage mixture and stir gently. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, at 350° until cheese is melted, 5-7 minutes.

Stuffed Baked Mushrooms

Ingredients

Medium fresh cremini or white mushrooms, stemmed
Nonstick cooking spray

Directions

Place mushroom caps, stemmed side down, in a shallow baking pan. Lightly coat mushrooms with cooking spray. Bake about 5 minutes or until just tender and heated through. Drain, stemmed sides down, on paper towels. Fill as desired. Serve immediately.



MUSHROOM FILLINGS:

Ham: Chopped cooked ham, cooked sweet potato, finely chopped green sweet pepper, and minced fresh garlic.

Roast Beef: Thinly sliced roast beef, crumbled blue cheese, and steamed asparagus tips.

Bacon-Apple: Thinly sliced apple, shredded smoked cheddar cheese, and crumbled crisp-cooked bacon.

Egg Salad: Chopped hard-cooked eggs, cherry tomato wedges, and shredded spinach.

Chile Cream Cheese: Softened cream cheese, raspberry preserves, and sliced fresh jalapeno chile peppers.

Shrimp: Boursin cheese spread, mayonnaise, cooked medium shrimp, and fresh thyme leaves.

Hummus: Prepared hummus, slivered oil-packed dried tomatoes, and slivered or sliced green and black olives.

Sausage: Cooked bulk Italian sausage, pizza sauce, shredded mozzarella cheese, and fresh parsley leaves.

Smoked Turkey: Shredded smoked turkey, cranberry relish, and fresh sage leaves.

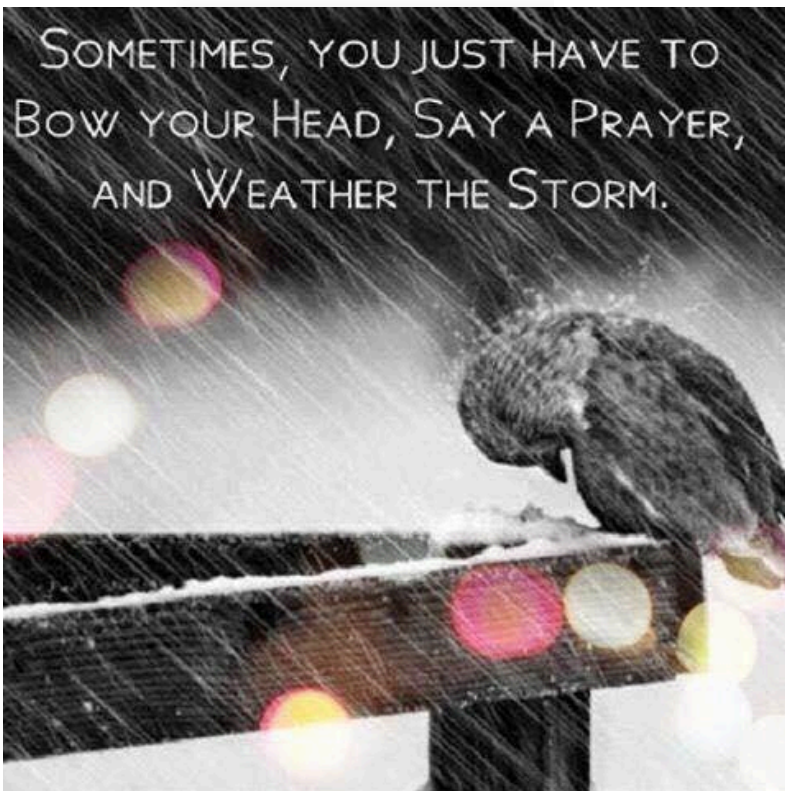
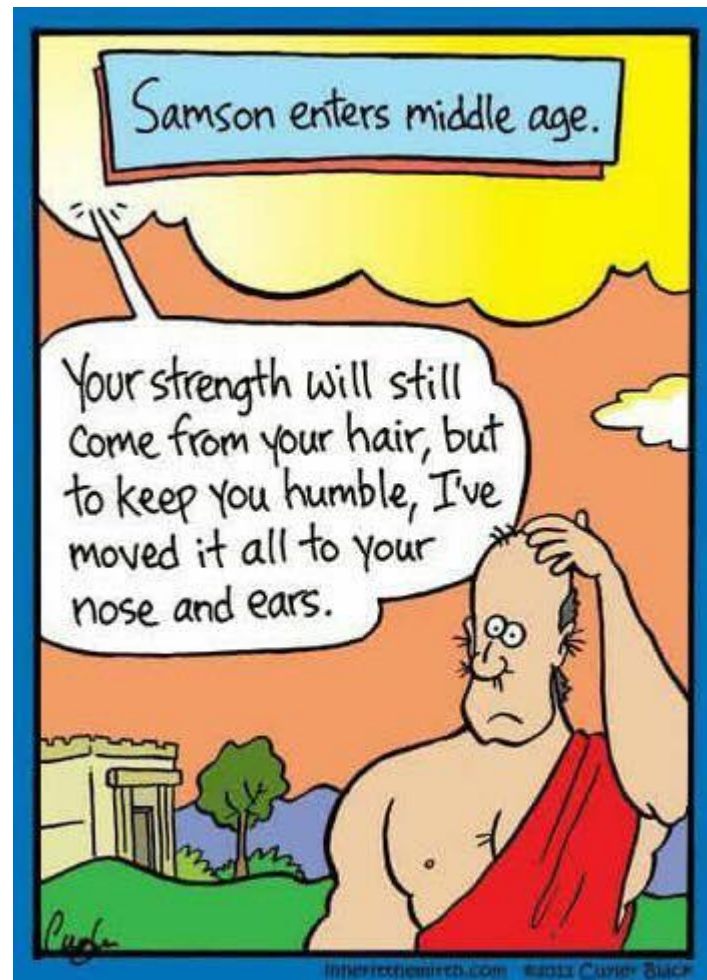
Wasabi Chicken: Shredded cooked chicken, shredded carrot, sliced green onions, minced fresh ginger, and prepared wasabi paste.

“...A merry heart doeth good like medicine...”

How I sleep when I think
of how good God is.



Daniel slept in a lions den
Peter slept in a prison
Jesus slept in a storm
No matter your circumstance, you
can take a nap.



ACTIVITY PAGE



The Christmas Story



ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
CAMELS
CATTLE
DONKEY
EAST
GIFTS

MANGER
MARY
MYRRH
SHEEP
SHEPHERDS
STAR
WISE MEN

GOLD
HOLY SPIRIT
EMMANUEL
INCENSE
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI

©ActivitiesForKids.com

Clothespin Snowman



These little snowmen are a great craft because they require very little clean-up and can be easily pinned onto the Christmas tree for display.