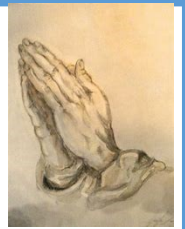




# THE GOOD NEWS

## Lake Gibson Methodist Church

*To be a joyful church family that is crucial to our community*



### *The Good News*

Hello Lake Gibson Family,

**Scripture: Isaiah 9:6**

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

#### **Consider This:**

“To Us A Child Is Born”

This month, for Christians we celebrate the birth of our savior; the arrival of our King. I started thinking about my family. When Makenzie and I found out we were going to have a baby girl we were excited and wanted to tell everyone about it. Then the day finally came, her birthday. A day filled with so much emotion. Shortly after her arrival we started to announce to everyone we knew that our sweet baby girl has come into this world. Our 7.5 pound, 19.5 inches long, and healthy bundle of joy is here! Birth announcements are wonderful ways of sharing and spreading joy.

Some birth announcements go out soon after the baby is born, and others a bit later, depending on the organizational ability (and sleep levels) of the parents. However, the birth announcement for Jesus is different. It's sent before the birth — seven hundred years before. The prophet Isaiah delivered it to the people of Israel while they were facing a threat from the growing superpower of Assyria (which would eventually destroy the northern kingdom of Israel and lead many Jews into captivity). Isaiah addressed this situation by promising the coming of a future King.

The seven-hundred-year delay was not because God was unable to fulfill his promise sooner, but because he wanted to give his people the hope of a future King to sustain them through dark times.

The long period between promise and fulfillment was, in fact, a gift from God to his people.

(Continued on pg 2)

(Continued from pg 1)

I've never received a royal birth announcement, but I imagine it's fancier than most — especially when it announces the birth of the future King. Such an announcement must bear a solemnity and significance ordinary ones do not. Isaiah announces the birth of a baby with four names: "his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." One name wasn't sufficient to describe this special child. Moreover, these names tell us what the baby will do. Imagine reading on a birth announcement, "Excellent violin player, marathon runner, future CEO of major corporation." Birth announcements don't list accomplishments. That's because there are none to list — apart from thumb-sucking, blinking, and drooling.

This baby is different. "Wonderful Counselor" indicates that Jesus will be a supernatural source of extraordinary wisdom — amazing news for those who need guidance. "Mighty God" indicates that Jesus will be divinely strong and powerful — amazing news for those who are weak. "Everlasting Father" indicates that Jesus will care for his people forever, as a father cares for his children — amazing news for those who are alone and unappreciated. "Prince of Peace" indicates that Jesus will bring deep well-being and right relationships — amazing news for all of us who lack peace with each other and with God.

Lastly, Isaiah was right. God did deliver on this promise. Jesus was born seven hundred years later and fulfilled every promise announced. God came among us in the person of Jesus. He took on flesh in order to give us wisdom, protection, fatherly care, and peace as we enter into relationship with him.

Rev Robert L Rember JR

## **Christian Meaning Behind the 12 Days of Christmas**

Originally a poem written by Catholic clerics, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song was transformed into a carol at a time when celebrating the twelve days of Christmas was one of the most important holiday customs. By understanding the meaning the clerics chose the twelve days as wrapping for their poem, the full impact of the tradition of the twelve days of Christmas can be understood.

*On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... a partridge in a pear tree.*

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

*On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... two turtledoves.*

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

(continued on pg 3)

(continued from pg 2)

*On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... three French hens.*

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.

*On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... four calling birds.*

One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

*On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... five gold rings.*

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

*On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... six geese a-laying.*

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was “hatched” or formed by God.

*On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me... seven swans a-swimming.*

It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts.

*On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... eight maids a-milking.*

As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

*On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... nine ladies dancing.*

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

*On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me... ten lords a-leaping.*

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Catholics.

*On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... eleven pipers piping.*

This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, there were only eleven men who carried out the gospel message.

*On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... twelve drummers drumming.*

The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. “I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.”

## Visit Bethlehem

Please come and visit Bethlehem. It is in the subdivision of Country Oaks, the first subdivision off Old Polk City Road by Crestview Baptist Church. If you have never been, it is really a great thing to see. All the figurines were made by Mr. & Mrs. Penn.

## Lake Gibson Women In Mission

Ladies don't forget our Christmas Party on December 4, 2024, in the FLC ( Main) at 10:00. Don't forget to bring a finger food to share, a wrapped gift (\$10.00), and a donation for the Food Pantry. We have games to play, friends to see, great food to share, and just plan on having a merry ole time. We want to see you there!

Attention! Attention! The circle meeting for January has been changed to the **SECOND** Wednesday, January 8,2025, due to the fact that the 1st Wednesday is New Year's Day. So mark your calendars! We will be studying Chapter 7.

## **“Pennies From Heaven”**

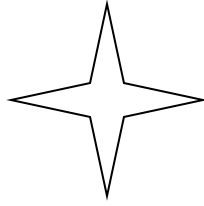
Thank-you Hadley Gullede and Brayden Gullede for your help each week collecting our “Pennies From Heaven” donations for all our wonderful organizations we support.

Our January through November totals for each month of 2024 are:

January	Children's Home	\$180.47
February	Wounded Warriors	\$186.48
March	Children's Home	\$183.47
April	Homeless Graduating Seniors	\$195.18
May	LGMC Food Pantry	\$221.70
June	Children's Home	\$250.48
July	Hope House	\$191.57
August	Guardian Ad Litem	\$143.70
September	Children's Home	\$280.79
October	Heifer International	\$161.59
November	Team Dad	\$240.59

Thank-you to our other young ladies and gentlemen who helped during the year also.

Harriet Shapiro



This Christmas may we reflect on  
the true meaning of the season.

We pray that you are blessed with God's  
abundance during the next year.

That you celebrate Christ's life each and every day.

And that you see the beauty of God's works in  
smallest creatures of the earth and of the unending sky.

We praise God for giving us another year to serve  
others by our prayers.

May you have the gift of faith, the blessings of hope  
and the peace of His love at Christmas and the New Year.

Special greetings and our Christian love and  
friendship from your prayer team and visitation team.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as  
good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10 ESV

**JESUS, LORD, AT THY BIRTH!**

The ladies of Women in Mission are happy to report another successful Annual Fall Rummage sale is in the books. We thank our gracious and most loving God for granting us all the ability, energy and stamina to see us thru this event. Our sincere and grateful thanks to everyone that contributed in any way.

We couldn't have done it without our men, who year after year donate their time and strong backs to setting up for the sale, unloading the sheds, moving the heavy boxes and then loading the Salvation Army trailer and helping clean up after the sale. Guys, it may be the women's sale but we could never do it without your help. Thank You so much.

To all the people who so generously donated the items we sell, Thank you for donating your "trash" to make our "treasure". Without so many beautiful items to sell our success would be impossible.

To all the ladies that helped, no matter your job, all the hours spent sorting, cleaning, pricing, organizing and selling, our efforts to hold the best rummage sale in Lakeland paid off. We cleared \$4,400.00. That money will go a long way in helping some of our local charities. Thank you all.

We are in the process of doing some cleaning and organizing in our sheds. We hope to begin accepting donations for our Spring sale after the Christmas holidays.

### **Editorial Policy**

The articles contained in *The Good News* express the opinions of their authors, and do not necessarily reflect policies of the Methodist Church or of Lake Gibson Methodist Church.

The purpose of the newsletter is to foster better communication of ideas and opportunities for worship and service among LGMC members and friends as we seek to share God's love and make disciples of Jesus Christ. All members and constituents are encouraged to write articles and share their thoughts and photos with the congregation.

Editor

### **Contact Information**

**Pastor** , Rev. Robert Rember 863-858-5431; fax 863-853-1625; pastor@lakegibsonumc.com

**Kristie Otte**, Administrative Secretary, 863-858-5431, office@lakegibsonumc.com

**Sue Heishman**, Bookkeeper

**Office Hours: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday**

**Glenda Grant Hess**, Music/Worship Director

**Ken Taylor**, Custodian

**Shenise "Niki" Brogen**, Director of A Little Bit of Heaven Child Enrichment Center, 863-858-8400.

**Bruce Dollens, Dave McPherson, Kristie Otte, and Bob Siegel**, Audio/Visual Team



## **December Birthdays**

12/11	Beverly Henrich
12/13	Charline Gulledge
12/17	Beverly Hines
12/20	Kristie Otte
12/6	Ann Kneeland
12/28	Glenda Hess
12/30	Harriet Shapiro

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:30am - Sunday Service 3pm - Girl Scouts 4pm - Youth Group 4pm - Hanging of the Greens	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10am - Women in Missions 6:15pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Choir (S)	<b>5</b> 9am - Community Food Pantry 6:30pm - Praise Band	<b>6</b> Office Closed	<b>7</b> Matthew 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from sin"
<b>8</b> 10:30am - Sunday Service 4pm - Youth Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10am - Merry Matters 6:15pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Choir (S)	<b>12</b> 9am - Community Food Pantry 1pm - ALBOH Board Meeting 6:30pm - Praise Band	<b>13</b> Office Closed	<b>14</b> 4:30pm - VBS Meeting
<b>15</b> 10:30am - Christmas Contata 3pm - Girl Scouts 4pm - Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:15pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Choir (S)	<b>19</b> 9am - Community Food Pantry 6:30pm - Praise Band	<b>20</b> Office Closed	<b>21</b> Luke 2:11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"
<b>22</b> 10:3-am - Sunday Service 4pm - Girl Scouts	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas!	<b>26</b> 6:30pm - Praise Band	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> 9am - VBS Set-up
<b>29</b> 10:30am - Sunday Service 4pm - Youth Group VBS Set-up	<b>30</b> VBS Set-up	<b>31</b> VBS Set-up				