



The Messenger

GAL 6:9
SO LET'S NOT GET TIRED OF DOING WHAT IS GOOD.
(DECEMBER 2019)

CHURCH OFFICE:
105 SALADO PLAZA
DRIVE - P.O. BOX 865
NEW (254) 308-2023

PRESBSALADO
@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE:
PRESBSALADO.ORG

PASTOR:
REV. CARL THOMPSON
CELL (254) 702-4119
CTHOMPS106@AOL.COM

MINISTERS:
THE CONGREGATION

SESSION MEMBERS:
PAT HART -
Clerk of Session
NANCY NORRIS -
Worship
JOYCE GOZA
Personnel/Finance
EVELYN THOMPSON -
Education
SHIRLEY LETT-
Fellowship
PAT REHM -
Benevolence/Outreach
RANDY KEMP &
JOHN BOOHER
Building & Grounds

TREASURER:
JOHN PETTIJOHN

ORGANIST:
JEANETTE WEST

CHOIR DIRECTOR:
MONTE SHUCK

**COMMUNICATIONS &
MESSENGER EDITOR:**
PETE STEBBINS
(254) 231-4883
PETE7744@ICLOUD.COM

* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR NEXT
MONTH'S PUBLICA-
TION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson



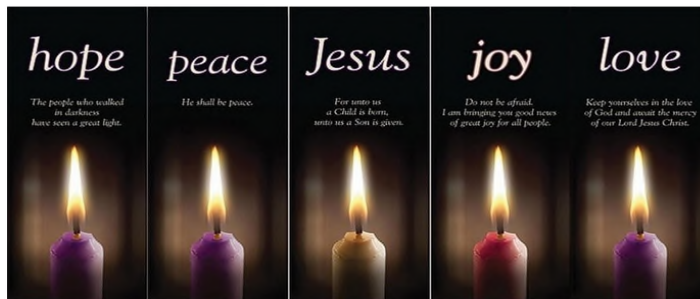
Once again, we are beginning the Advent and Christmas season. Our church has been decorated in preparation for Christmas. Each Sunday during the Advent season we light a candle in our worship services and read the corresponding Scripture so that we may focus our attention on Jesus and His redeeming love.

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.



back to A.D. 600, reminds us that the center of the Church, our lives, and the Christmas celebration is Christ Jesus.

In our Advent Wreath we use three purple candles representing Hope, Love and Peace, and a pink candle representing the Joy that is ours because of Christ's coming into the world and into our hearts and lives. The white candle, the Christ Candle, in the center of the wreath is lit on Christmas Eve and represents the birth of Jesus. This tradition, dating



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Calendar of Events

Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am

Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. 8 am

Choir Practice Wednesdays 5:30 pm

Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Dec. 7 - Presbytery Meeting (Dallas)
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 PM
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day with Family
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

DECEMBER 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Yoga 1 PM	4 Choir 5:30	5 Yoga 10:30	6	7
8	9	10 Yoga 1 PM	11 Choir 5:30	12 Yoga 10:30	13	14
15	16	17 Yoga 1 PM	18 Choir 5:30	19 Yoga 10:30	20	21
22	23	24 Yoga 1 PM Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Yoga 10:30	27	28
29	30	31 Yoga New Year's Eve	happy new year			

This picture is Ash, Kellie, and son Jack at the World Series game in DC on Oct. 26 just 17 days before he passed. You'd never notice how bad he felt. It was important for him to share this experience with his "baseball" oriented son.

The illness lasted several years, but Ash continued to be a strong husband and father plus he continued to maintain close relationships with many friends. Bev says, "He lived a full and happy life!"



"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Such faith! Such trust! Such Unquestioning Obedience!

Every year as Christmas approaches, my thoughts turn to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Her story ever beckons to me.

As I imagine it, I see Mary, the young maiden, olive skinned, a covering over her long, dark hair, about thirteen years old, newly metamorphosed into womanhood. And I picture Joseph, a tall, handsome young man, likely in his late teens, yet old enough to choose a wife.

I see their families sharing the Sabbath meal together, the candles lit, the ancient words of the ritual being repeated. And Mary's mother, perhaps, as she sees the richly colored garment worn by Joseph's mother, and the fine table that is set before them, growing excited for her daughter's prospects, pleased that a young man from such a family, a descendant of David, is interested in her daughter.

And I envision the fathers, in the cool of the evening, moving out into the courtyard after dinner, to discuss the betrothal, and the eventual marriage of their children. Perhaps the



talk turns to the grandchildren that they may one day share, and brings a smile of anticipation to their faces.

The happy couple, so young, so innocent, so caught up in the joy and the passion of youth, the excitement of planning their wedding day, and the life they will soon share, seem blissfully unaware of the turmoil that lies ahead of them.

But then, "The Annunciation!"

In the book of Luke, Chapter 1:26-29, we read: "Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one; the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of message this might be."

The angel Gabriel then proclaimed that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and she would bear a child, to be called Jesus, the son of the living God, the long promised and long awaited Savior of Israel.

And her response to all this? This virgin, who had never lain with a man, this newly betrothed, barely past childhood, woman?

Her response, "The Magnificat," as we know it, is found in Luke 1:46-55. It says, in part: "My soul magnifies the Lord; and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; because He has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth our generation shall call me blessed, because He who is mighty has done great things for me; and holy is His name."

Such faith! Such trust! Such unquestioning obedience to God's call on her life. Such rejoicing!

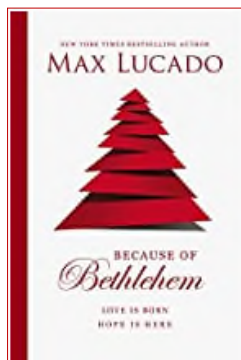
It is hard for us to fathom. And yet, we accept it as fact, and we believe it is true. For we, as Christians, know the rest of the story. And we know too that it is not yet finished. And soon we, like Mary, like the angels in Heaven, and the Wise Men of old, will be celebrating Jesus' birth.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and he shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6).

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, from a very "Merry Heart,"

Linda Lloyd

Advent Adult Bible Study



For Advent, the class will be studying Max Lucado's book, Because of Bethlehem. We will explore how the one who made everything, chose to make himself nothing, and came into our world. Jesus' birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us and that we no longer need to have marks on our record.

Schedule, Lesson Topics & Reading Assignments:

- Dec. 1--"God Has a Face", Chap. 1 - 3
- Dec. 8--"Worship Works Wonders", Chap. 4 - 6
- Dec. 15--"God Guides the Wise", Chap. 7 - 9
- Dec. 22--"Every Heart a Manger", Chap. 10 - 12
- Dec. 29--No Class
- Jan. 5--Back to Covenant -- Episode 12

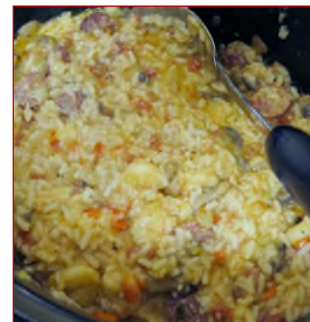
You are invited to celebrate the Advent Season with us. Come on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. There will be a seat for you, a big welcome, a book, and a cup of coffee. We hope you come.

Shirley Pinkston

Recipe of the Day - Jambalaya

Serves 6-8 people

- 4 T butter
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 stalks celery, sliced thin
- 1 chopped red bell pepper
- 1 can Rotel
- 8 oz sliced mushrooms
- 16-24 oz beef or chicken broth
- 1 c uncooked rice (Not Minute Rice. It gets too mushy.)
- 1 link sausage, sliced (I like Andouille best for this.)
- 1 lb. peeled deveined shrimp



Melt butter in a medium stock pot over medium heat. Add onion, celery, and bell pepper. Cook until onion is translucent, about 6 minutes. Add sausage. Cook for five minutes. Add beef broth, mushrooms, and Rotel. Bring to boil. Reduce to simmer and cook for 15 minutes. Add rice and simmer for about 15 more minutes or until the rice is done. Add shrimp and cook for additional 5-6 minutes.

Serve with crusty bread and butter and a mixed green salad. You will be comforted for at least two weeks, but then you will crave it again within the month.

Enjoy, *Denice Kemp*

Benevolence Committee Report - by Pat Rehm

This holiday season always provides special opportunities to share love with others less fortunate than we are. Did you know that the Brown Bags of HOPE, available at the Brookshire Brothers in Mill Creek Plaza for \$10, are delivered directly to the Heart & Hands Pantry? Although these gifts of food items are assembled by employees and sold all year, they are more available in the holiday season. The store even had a special promotion for the HOPE program on November 22nd, to benefit Heart & Hands.



Thank you to all in our congregation who contributed to the Heart & Hands' community Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 23rd! It was well attended, and the community's participation was greatly appreciated.

In December, we will enhance our support of the Heart & Hands Pantry by offering a "Reverse Advent Calendar," which suggests various food items to be collected during the month of December and brought to our church's lobby on Christmas Eve (or during the following week). Copies of this "giving calendar" will be available at church throughout December.

Another community helping agency that we support is Salado Family Relief, which will provide Christmas gifts to children in Salado whose families apply for that help. We have previously participated in this project, and Sara Pettijon is still our church's contact. She expects to receive the names of 12 children, along with the items they wish to receive. If you would like to participate, please contact Sara by email at pettijon@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

Additional possibilities for helping others in need is donating to the Salvation Army in Temple. It is one of the agencies that our congregation supports through our quarterly mission gifts. It is asking for bell ringers during December at various places in the Temple Mall, as well as at Big Lots, Walgreens, Walmart, and Sam's Club. For information about "registering to ring" for the Salvation Army, go online at www.registertoring.com. You may select your own dates and location.



May the Holiday season bring you joy as you find ways to share the meaning of Christmas! *Pat Rehm*

The "Hanging of the Greens" Social - November 24



The November Social was focused on decorating for Advent plus enjoying Chili and one of the ten Soups!



We wonder about the wiring?



2020 Pledge

If you haven't turned in your 2020 Pledge yet, the session would appreciate it if you would.

Presbyterian Church of Salado

Pledge for 2020

As a part of my/our commitment to the Presbyterian Church of Salado and my/our belief that, "The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world,";

I/we pledge to:

_____ pray regularly

_____ attend worship regularly

_____ work in and through my/our church

_____ give \$ _____ weekly, monthly, annually
for operational expenses.

Name (s): _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please send to: Presbyterian Church of Salado
P.O. Box 865
Salado, TX 76571

Or, place in the offering plate at the church.

The session would appreciate receiving your pledge by November 30 so that the budgeting process can be completed in a timely manner.