

# The Banner

## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS AND PURE EVIL

by Pastor John Mochel



*was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.*

*She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.*

**M**ore than 2,000 years ago a baby was born in Bethlehem. This baby was God in human flesh, the Word of God, the Son of God, the Light of the World, the Messiah of Israel, the most important person ever born into this world. And when He was born the devil tried to kill Him.

Now, you might say that it was Herod who tried to kill the baby Messiah, Jesus. That is true, but do you know who was behind Herod? Who was making Herod do it? We learn the answer to those questions in Revelation 12:1-6.

*And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.*

*And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who*

The book of Revelation begins with the Greek word apocalypsis, from which we get our modern word "apocalyptic." But the word in Greek does not mean end times. It literally means "*hidden things revealed*." This is what the book is doing, revealing hidden things. Revelation is showing the world for what it truly is and showing us what is really going on, what has happened, and what will happen.

Revelation 12 is an epic visionary presentation of the battle that has been raging for 6,000 years. We cannot see it with our eyes. This vision reveals the spiritual realities. Here in Revelation 12, we see Israel depicted as a glorified, heavenly Eve, ready to bring forth the Messiah, the seed of the woman.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

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(Genesis 3:15, Genesis 37:9-10, 1 Samuel 7:12-13, Psalm 2:7-9, Isaiah 11:1, Isaiah 53:2) She is Israel, the apple of God's eye, the mother of the Messiah. This reality is worked out in time in the young pregnant Mary in Bethlehem.

And the devil, depicted as a great red dragon, wants to eat that child as soon as He is born. Think about it. This was Satan's first opportunity to kill God and He tried to do just that. This reality is worked out in the evil, demonized, King Herod in Jerusalem pretending that he wants to worship the child with the Magi. He doesn't. God warned the Magi and then Joseph about Herod's duplicity. Herod was, in fact, Satan's agent in the world, trying to eliminate the Messiah before Jesus could do anything.

*Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Matthew 2:16*

We see in all this a mighty contrast between evil and good, between the way of the world and the kingdom of Heaven, between the work of Satan and the work of God. Satan works in lies, brute force, and murder. God defeats Satan by the word of an angel, the birth of a baby, and the humble obedience of the baby's parents. It always looks like God is about to lose, but Satan never wins.

Satan uses people just like this, even today. People in this world will seek to advance what they think is their will using the weapons of this world; deception, slander, manipulation, intimidation, and murder. They might not know it, but they are serving Satan. Those who love the Lord do battle with the Word of God, prayer, faith in Jesus, and obedience to God even when we don't know what will happen. God is in control. He will win our victory.

Christmas is a celebration of a great divine victory. And how did God win? A baby was born into this world, amid all the hatred, scheming, deception, and murder. Mary had her baby Jesus, and the world has never been the same. Hallelujah!



## What's Happening In December?

\* **December 6**

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Sunshine Foods. Half hour slots available. Sign-up at the Welcome Desk!

\* **December 7 & 14 | 9:00am**

Full dress rehearsal during the SS hour for the SS Christmas Program

\* **December 14 | 11:45am**

Everyone is invited to stay for a fellowship dinner prior to the program. As there will be guests visiting, we ask that all who are able, to please provide a main course dish and a salad or dessert.

\* **December 14 | 1:00pm**

The presentation of the SS Christmas Program

\* **December 24 | 7:00pm**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carols & Readings

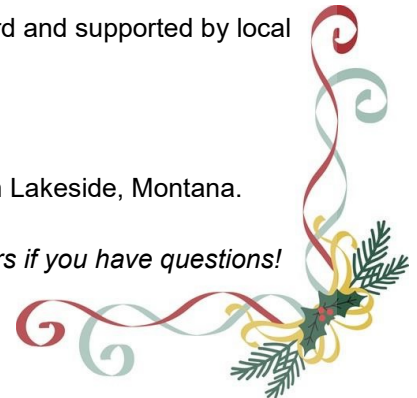


# Missions Update

In preparation for budget discussions at the Annual Meeting, the Missions Committee is providing an update on the missionaries/organizations supported in 2024-2025:

- Central District and Office of the EFCA President – Brooklyn Evangelical Free Church is associated with the Central District for the Evangelical Free Church of America. Financial support is provided for administrative expenses.
- Hidden Acres Christian Camp - BEFC has been an active supporter of this camp since its inception in the year 1979. Many children from our church and the Beresford area have attended HA and a substantial number have served as staff. This camp is located on 600 acres near Dayton, Iowa and offers a plethora of specialty camps for all ages.
- Charles Simeon Trust - These funds are used to provide pastor training and workshops.
- Mission Awareness - These dollars are used for various activities that raise the church body's awareness of mission activities.
- Matt and Amy Sees - Provide international pastoral training through the Reach Global Pathways Program.
- Mark and Jamie Farran - Provide pastoral and congregational support to churches in the Central District located in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota.
- CRU Missionaries - Work with Campus Crusade for Christ (aka CRU) and translation of the Jesus film into other languages. (Names deleted for safety reasons.)
- Steve and Jayne Ratzlaff - Cowboy Church in Oklahoma.
- Andrew and Nadine Cavari - Youth With a Mission (YWAM) leaders in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Tyler and Aryn Dykstra at Oyate Concern - Mission on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.
- JeanJean and Kristi Mompremier - Missionaries for many years in Haiti via United Christians International (UCI).
- Gillian Wyatt - oversees the YWAM Discipleship Training School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Has served in a variety of roles at YWAM for the past five years.
- Todd and Katie Brooks - Provide pastoral and congregational support to churches in the southern portion of the Central District. They are also involved in church planting in Missouri and Arkansas.
- International Pastor Training/Logos Ministry - Pastor John Mochel leads along with other pastors an annual pastoral training in India.
- Faith in Action - Local food/household product distribution located in Beresford and supported by local churches.
- Anne Kenworthy - Reach Global missionary in an Arabic speaking country.
- Sarah Sveeggen - serving as YWAM staff for the School of Biblical Studies in Lakeside, Montana.

*Please contact Connie Schmidt or any of the Missions Committee members if you have questions!*







<i>sunday</i>	<i>monday</i>	<i>tuesday</i>	<i>wednesday</i>	<i>thursday</i>	<i>friday</i>	<i>saturday</i>
	<b>1</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	<b>2</b> 8a-4p CC	<b>3</b> 12p Community Study  6:30p Annual Business Meeting 6:30p AIC Youth	<b>4</b>  7:30p Men's Discipleship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10a-2p SA Bell Ringing, Sunshine Foods
<b>7</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship <b>Communion</b>  6p Evening Study	<b>8</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	<b>9</b> 8a-4p CC 9a-2p DTS Pastors Group	<b>10</b> 12p Community Study  6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	<b>11</b>  7:30p Men's Discipleship	<b>12</b> 9a Elder Board Meeting  12p Beresford Ministerial	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:45a Fellowship Dinner 1p SS Christmas Program	<b>15</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 12p Community Study  6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	<b>18</b> 9:45a Bethesda Service  7:30p Men's Discipleship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	<b>22</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  7p Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship  6p Evening Study	<b>29</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper 7p HS Girls Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Pastor leaves for India			

**Happy Birthday:**

1 Stanley Gordon  
 6 Scout Meier  
 14 Jake Krebs  
 15 Luke Koth  
 15 Nancy Mochel  
 15 Freeman Swanstrom

16 Andy German  
 27 Sean Krebs  
 28 Ben Fahlberg  
 28 Connie Twedt  
 29 Deanna Leikvold  
 30 Izibela Monen

**Happy Anniversary:**

6 Brian & Becky Erickson  
 20 Clint & Barb Koth  
 28 Allan & Jan Charrlin  
 31 Andy & Paige German

# MINISTRY AND WORSHIP

## December 7

AM | Isaiah 7:1-16, Communion

Theme | "The Child Immanuel"

PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

## December 14

AM | Isaiah 9:1-7

Theme | "A Child Will be Born to Us"

Fellowship Dinner & SS Christmas Program

PM | No evening service

## December 21

AM | Isaiah 11:1-10

Theme | "A Shoot will Spring, from the Root of Jesse"

PM | No evening service

## December 24

7:00pm | Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

## December 28

AM | Isaiah 42:1-9

Theme | The Servant Upon Whom Rests the Spirit of God

PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

## CHRISTMAS

"And she will bring forth a Son,  
and you shall call His name JESUS, for  
He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21



# MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Date	Greeters	Nursery	Children's Church	Music/Missions	Scripture Reader
12/7	D/J Paulson	Jackie Krebs	Colleen Buss	Communion	Dan Erickson
		Annalisa Stake	Elsie Bovill		
12/14	C/M DeLay	Stacy Sims	Julie Saugstad	Open	Jeremy Saugstad
		Abby Wergin	Bethany Hoffman		
12/21	K/R Leikvold	Nancy Swanstrom	Brittany VHofwegen	John Fahlberg	Robin Leikvold
		Memphis Meier	Sara Hoffman		
12/28	A Sveeggen	Hannah Bird	Nancy Mochel	Abby Wergin	Reid Jensen
		Audrey Bird	Grace Paulson		
1/4	J/C Pierce	Karla Bovill	Connie Pierce	Hannah Bird	Arlyn Abrams
		Isaac Bovill	Harley Koth		
1/11	D/M Nelson	Michelle DeLay	BJ Pramann	Open	Dan Paulson
		Sydney DeLay	Hunter Pramann		
1/18	R/M Jensen	Jen Gordon	Colleen Buss	Matilda Lewis	Matthew Wynia
		Lewie Gordon	Elijah Stake		
1/25	L/L Koth	Jackie Krebs	Michelle DeLay	Rylee Adam	Jerrold Wynia
		C VanHofwegen	L VanHofwegen		

**December Worship Leader:** Pete Fahlberg

**Keyboard:** Connie Twedt

**Ushers:** Ron Swanson, Dan Paulson,  
Mark Bovill, Dave Nelson

**January Worship Leader:** Brian Fahlberg

**Keyboard:** Connie Twedt, Doreen Fahlberg

**Ushers:** Jeremy Saugstad, Allen Sveeggen,  
Luke Koth, Chris DeLay



